



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)


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The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 210, February 23, 2024

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active, but with a 5-week maximum.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

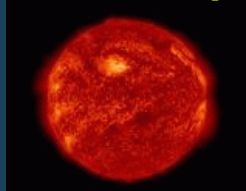
Dr. Tony Phillips' [SpaceWeather.com](#), used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



Solar-Terrestrial Data

24 Feb 2024 1431 GMT
 SFI: 173 SN: 101
 A-Index: 3
 K-Index: 1
 X-Ray: C1.9
 304Å: 152.0 @ SEM
 Ptn Flx: 3980
 Elc Flx: 4670
 Aurora: 2/n=1.99
 Mag (Bz): 0.2
 Solar Wind: 320.1
 Geomag Field VR QUIET
 Sig Noise Lvl S0-S1
 Current Solar Image



<http://www.norbh.com>
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DX News

3B8, MAURITIUS. David, OK6DJ will be active as **3B8/OK6DJ** from Mauritius Island (AF-049) from **February 20th to 27th**. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW.
 -[425DXN # 1710 February 10, 2024] (0216-0301)

3B8, MAURITIUS. Timo, OH1NA will be active holiday style as **3B8/OH1NA** from Mauritius (AF-049) from **February 25th to March 7th**. He will operate CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or via [OH1NA](#).
 -[425DXN # 1711 February 17, 2024] (0223-0308)

3B9, RODRIGUES ISLAND. Richard, HB9FHV is QRV as **3B9/HB9FHV** and has been active on 20 meters using SSB around 1630z. QSL direct to [HB9FHV](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0315)

3W, VIET NAM. Gran, **XV9G** has been active on 12 meters using CW around 1200z. QSL direct to [XV9G](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0315)

4L, GEORGIA. Look for **4L5O** to be a Single Op/High Power entry in the CQ World Wide 160 Meter SSB contest (**February 23rd-25th**). QSL direct to [N3SL](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0301)

5A, LIBYA. Abubaker, **5A1AL** has been active on 10 meters using FT8 around 0830 and 0930z. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0315)

5H, TANZANIA. Sysa, OM4AYL will be QRV as **5H4AYL** from Pemba Island (AF-063) from **February 18th to 28th**. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL to [OM4AYL](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 7 February 15, 2024] (0216-0301)

5R, MADAGASCAR. Borut, S53BV will be QRV as **5R8BV** from Nosy Be (AF-057) from **February 17th to March 3rd**. Activity will be on the HF bands. This includes being an entry in the ARRL International DX CW (February 17th-18th) and upcoming ARRL DX SSB Contest (February 23rd-25th). QSL direct to [S53BV](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 7 February 15, 2024] (0216-0308)

5R, MADAGASCAR. Eric, F6ICX is QRV as **5R8IC** until **March 31st**. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using mainly CW with low power. The last two weeks here will be spent being active on Satellite QO-100. QSL direct to [F6ICX](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 1, 2024] (0202-0308)

5X, UGANDA. Dick, W6TK will be active as **5X2G** on **February 12th-29th** while visiting family in Uganda. He will operate CW and FT8/FT4 and hopes to participate in the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 17th-18th) on a part time basis. QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1710 February 10, 2024] (0209-0301)

5Z, KENYA. Special callsign **5Z4FOC** marks the occasion of the first FOC (First Class CW Operators' Club) East Africa Dinner during the **month of February**. QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1712 February 24, 2024] (0223-0301)

6W, SENEGAL. Willy, ON4AVT will be QRV as **6W7/ON4AVT** from Warang from **February 3rd to April 16th**. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and various digital modes, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL to [ON4AVT](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 1, 2024] (0202-0308)

9K, KUWAIT. Special event station **9K2NLD** celebrates the Kuwait National Day and the Day of Liberation on **February 25th-26th**. QSL via [EC6DX](#).

-[DXNL # 2394 February 21, 2024] (0223-0301)

A3, TONGA. Operators YT1AD, YU3AA, RC9O and UA9OLY are QRV as **A35AD**, **A35AA**, **A35LY**, and **A35RC**, respectively, until **February 27th**. QSL A35AD to [YT1AD](#), A35AA to [YU3AA](#), A35LY to [RC9O](#), and A35RC to [UA9OLY](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0301)

A3, TONGA. Bob, W7Yaq as **A31DK** and Al, K7AR as **A31DL** will be active from Nuku'alofa, Tongatapu (OC-049), Tonga on **February 15th-27th**. QSL A31DK via [W7Yaq](#) or LoTW. QSL A31DL via [K7AR](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#) or LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1709 February 3, 2024] (0209-0301)

A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. Members of the Emirates Amateur Radio Society as QRV as **A6ØKWT** until **February 27th** to celebrate Kuwait National Day and Liberation Day.

QSL via [EA7FTR](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0301)

A9, BAHRAIN. Members of the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society as QRV as **A91KWT** until **February 26th** to celebrate Kuwait National Day and Liberation Day. QSL via [EC6DX](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0301)

CO, CUBA. Team **T42T** will be active from **February 29th to March 4th**, including an entry in the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2nd-3rd). Participating in this joint Cuba-USA operation will be CM2TV, CO2II, CO2KL, CO2OY, CO2XN, HI8RD, K5TFL, VO1IDX, W2WCM, W4VKU, W9MK and WB2REM. They will be active on 160-6 meters. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or direct to [WB2REM](#).

-[425DXN # 1712 February 24, 2024] (0223-0308)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DP9GLHN** will be used by members of DARC's Ortsverband Norderney from **February 1st to December 31st** to mark the 150th anniversary since the Norderney Island (EU-047) lighthouse was put into service. QSL via the bureau.

-[425DXN # 1710 February 10, 2024] (0209-0301)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of February 23, 2024:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion Islands
3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. KH4	Midway Island
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. VKØM	Macquarie Island
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. KP5	Desecheo Island
7. FT/G	Glorioso Island	17. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
8. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	18. KH5	Palmyra & Jarvis Islands
9. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	19. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
10. YVØ	Aves Island	20. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF February 23, 2024] (0223-0308)

EA, SPAIN. Commemorating the 44th anniversary of the 1980 referendum for autonomy and representing the provinces of Andalusia, eight special callsigns will be activated on **February 22nd-28th**: **AN44AL** (Almeria), **AN44CA** (Cadiz), **AN44CO** (Cordoba), **AN44GR** (Granada), **AN44HU** (Huelva), **AN44JA** (Jaen), **AN44MA** (Malaga), **AN44SE** (Sevilla). In addition, **AN44AND** will be active on **February 28th** (Andalusia Day). A number of certificates will be available, see <https://www.qrz.com/db/an44and> for information.

-[425DXN # 1709 February 3, 2024] (0216-0301)

EA, SPAIN. In celebration of World Radio Day (February 13th) and the 100th anniversary of the start of regular radio broadcasting in Spain, special callsign **AO1ØØRADIO** will be active on **February 1st-29th**. This activity is taking place as part of the celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the Union de Radioaficionados Espanoles, Spain's IARU member society. QSL via [EA4URE](#) (bureau preferred).

-[425DXN # 1709 February 3, 2024] (0202-0302)

EP, IRAN. Mohammed, **EP5MMS** is often active on 20 meters using SSB around 1200 to 1300z. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 4 January 25, 2024] (0126-0301)

FG, GUADELOUPE. Look for Gildas, F6HMQ and Michel, F6GWV to be active again as **FG/F6HMQ**, **FG/F6GWV** and **TO3Z** (QSL via [F6HMQ](#)) from Guadeloupe (NA-102) from **February 15th to March 17th**. There are plans to participate in the SSB leg of the French

HF Championship ("Coupe du REF", February 24th-25th) and the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2nd-3rd).

-[425DXN # 1712 February 24, 2024] (0223-0322)

FG, GUADELOUPE. Pascal, F6ASS plans to operate the REF SSB Cup (**February 25th**) and the ARRL International DX SSB Contest (**March 2nd-3rd**) as **FG4KH** from Guadeloupe (NA-102). Later in March, F1DUZ is going to use the same callsign for the CQ WPX SSB Contest (March 30th-31st).

-[DXNL # 2394 February 21, 2024] (0223-0308)

FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA. Geri, DK8KW, operates from Papeete on Tahiti (OC-046) between February 29th and March 3rd as **TXØQRP** with 5 Watts on 20-10m CW (and FT8 only during bad conditions). QSL via [DK8KW](#).

-[DXNL # 2390 January 24, 2024] (0223-0308)

FR, REUNION I. Thierry, FY4JI, will be active as **FR4AV** from **February 4th to March 11th** on 40-10m (CW, SSB). QSL via [EA5GL](#).

-[DXNL # 2391 January 31, 2024] (0202-0308)

FW, WALLIS & FUTUNA IS. Stan, LZ1GC and Ted LZ5QZ will be active as **FW8GC** and **TX8GC** from Wallis Island (OC-054) from **February 19th to March 9th**. They will operate CW, SSB, FT8, FT4 and maybe some RTTY on 160-6m. See <https://www.c21gc.com/> for more information. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), LoTW, or via [LZ1GC](#).

-[425DXN # 1708 January 27, 2024] (0216-0308)

H4, SOLOMON IS. Bernhard, DL2GAC will be active again as **H44MS** from Malaita (OC-047), Solomon Islands from around **February 10th until April 25th**. He will be QRV daily, with activity on 160-6 meters SSB and some FT8. QSL via [DL2GAC](#), direct or bureau. He will upload his log to ClubLog and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1707 January 20, 2024] (0209-0315)

H4Ø, TEMOTU PROVINCE. The Intrepid DX Group's DXpedition to Pigeon Island (OC-065), Temotu Province is set to take place from **February 22nd to March 7th**. Look for team **H4ØWA** (Rob N7QT, Paul N6PSE, Scott NE9U, Jay K4ZLE, Jay AC7DC, Bruce K3NQ, Don N6JRL and David AH6HY) to operate CW, SSB and FT8 (F/H) on 160-6 meters with up to 5-6 stations. While on the island, the team will post frequent updates to their Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/h40wa>). See <https://intrepid-dx.com/h40wa/> for the detailed QSL policy. QSL via [MØURX's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1711 February 17, 2024] (0216-0308)

HBØ, LIECHTENSTEIN. Rene, DL2JRM, signs **HBØ/DL2JRM** from **February 22nd to 26th** on CW and RTTY. QSL cards will arrive automatically via the bureau.

-[DXNL # 2394 February 21, 2024] (0223-0301)

HL, SOUTH KOREA. Ji, DS1TUW plans to be active as **DS1TUW/2** from Paengnyong Island (AS-122, WWL PM27ix) from **February 29th until around 0100 UTC on March 3rd**. He will operate CW, FT8 and some SSB depending on propagation, on 40-6 meters. He plans to enable ClubLog's Live Stream "to minimize the dupes", but "bear in mind there could be intermittent internet disconnections". QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW, or via [DS1TUW](#).

-[425DXN # 1706 January 13, 2024] (0223-0308)

HS, THAILAND. Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand, RAST members will be active as **HS6ØRAST** from **February 10th to March 10th**. QSL via [HS6MYW](#).

-[425DXN # 1710 February 10, 2024] (0209-0315)

HZ, SAUDI ARABIA. Special event station **HZ1KWT** celebrates the Kuwait National Day and the Day of Liberation on **February 25th-26th**. QSL via [EA7FTR](#).

-[DXNL # 2394 February 21, 2024] (0223-0301)

J2, DJIBOUTI. Bryan, AD8HK is QRV as **J28HK** while here on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on 20 meters using various digital modes. QSL to [AD8HK](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0315)

J5, GUINEA-BISSAU. Livio, IZ3BUR is QRV as **J52EC**. Activity is in his spare time mostly on 10 meters using SSB around 1500 to 1600z. QSL direct to [IZ3BUR](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 6 February 8, 2024] (0209-0301)

K, UNITED STATES. Team **N4T** will be active from Garden Key, Dry Tortugas (NA-079) on **February 23rd-26th**. They plan to be QRV on 80-6 meters with up to three stations during the day and at least one station overnight. Updates will be posted to <https://www.drytortugas.info/>. The same callsign will be used beginning **February 19th until March 1st** from various POTAs in the Florida Keys. QSOs will be uploaded to ClubLog and LoTW. QSL direct to [W3NY](#).

-[425DXN # 1711 February 17, 2024] (0223-0301)

KP2, VIRGIN IS. KC1KUG, W3MLJ and WO5T will be active as **NP2R** from St. Thomas, Virgin Islands (NA-106) from **February 27th to March 4th**. They will operate CW, SSB and possibly FT8/FT4 on 160-10 meters. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW. QSL direct to [KC3UII](#).

-[425DXN # 1712 February 24, 2024] (0223-0308)

KP2, VIRGIN IS. N9TTK, NE9U, and W9RE will be operating the ARRL DX CW Contest (**February 17th-18th**) together as **NP2X**. QSL via [KU9C](#).

-[DXNL # 2393 February 14, 2024] (0216-022)

PACIFIC TOUR. Hrane, YT1AD and his team (Anatoliy RC9O, Olga UA9OLY and Stevan YU3AA) will be active from Fiji (3D2), Samoa (5W) and Tonga (A3) as follows:

February 20th-27th, A3, Tonga

A35AD (YT1AD)

A35AA (YU3AA)

A35LY (UA9OLY)

A35RC (RC9O)

February 27th - March 1st, 3D2, Fiji

3D2AD ([YT1AD](#))

3D2AB ([YU3AA](#))

3D2LY ([UA9OLY](#))

3D2RC ([RC9O](#))

QSL via home calls.

-[425DXN # 1709 February 3, 2024] (0202-0301)

PJ7, SINT MAARTEN. Gary, KC9EE will be active again as **PJ7EE** from Sint Maarten (NA-105) from **February 21st to March 6th**. He will operate mainly CW, with SSB during the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2nd-3rd). He will be looking for openings towards Asia especially on 17-10 meters. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or direct to [KC9EE](#).

-[425DXN # 1711 February 17, 2024] (0216-0308)

PJ7, SINT MAARTEN. Paul DM2PF and Fabian DM7HB, will be active as **PJ7PF** and **PJ7PH** respectively for their holiday-style operation from Sint Maarten (NA-105). They will remain there **until February 28th**, with activity on 20, 15 and 10 meters.

-[425DXN # 1712 February 24, 2024] (0223-0301)

PZ, SURINAME. Dimitri, RA3CO is QRV as **PZ5DX** from Lelydorp. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 7 February 15, 2024] (0216-0322)

SM, SWEDEN. Celebrating the Scandinavian CW Activity Group's 50th anniversary, special callsign **SC5ØAG** will be active **during February**. All QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1709 February 3, 2024] (0202-0301)

T8, PALAU. Hiro-san, JH6GFY will be active as **T88GF** from Koror (OC-009), Palau from **February 27th to March 1st**. He plans to operate FT8, SSB and some CW on 80-10 meters. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or via [JH6GFY](#).

-[425DXN # 1712 February 24, 2024] (0223-0301)

TA, TURKEY. Special callsign **TC6EQ** will be active on **February 1st-29th** to commemorate the earthquake that struck Turkey on February 6, 2023, causing widespread damage, and killing nearly 51,000 people. In particular, this activity will honor the memory of Mustafa Ezer (TA8DX), who lost his life in that catastrophic event. A certificate will be available on <https://tadx.org/awards>. QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1708 January 27, 2024] (0126-0301)

TF, ICELAND. Chuck, KC4KQE will be active as **TF/KC4KQE** from Iceland on **February 17th-26th**. He will operate SSB and FT8, with plans "to attempt multiple POTA and SOTA activations" during the local daylight hours (0930-1800 UTC).

-[425DXN # 1711 February 17, 2024] (0216-0301)

TU, COTE D'IVOIRE. Fabrizio, F4VUK is QRV as **TU5NE** near San Pedro **until February 27th**. Activity is holiday style on 40, 20, and 10 meters using mostly FT8 with some SSB. QSL to [F4VUK](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0301)

UA, EUROPEAN RUSSIA. Look for **R1MJ/p** and **R1BET/p** to be active from Peredovik Island (EU-117) on **February 23rd-25th**. They will operate CW, FT8 and some SSB on 40-10 meters. QSL via [R1BET](#).

-[425DXN # 1712 February 24, 2024] (0223-0301)

V2, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA. Lee, AI5DN will be QRV as **V26DN** from Antigua (NA-100) from **February 25th to 28th**. Activity will be holiday style mostly on 20 meters using SSB but may also try to be active on 17 to 6 meters. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0301)

V3, BELIZE. Uwe, DL8UD will be active again as **V31KO** from Belize from **February 15th to March 6th**. He will operate SSB, CW and FT8 on 160-6 meters, and will participate in the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 17th-18th), the CQ WW 160-Meter SSB Contest (February 23rd-25th) and the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2nd-3rd) as V3O. QSL for both callsigns via [DL8UD](#), bureau or direct.

-[425DXN # 1707 January 20, 2024] (0209-0308)

V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS. Jeff, K1ZN will be QRV as **V44/K1ZN** from St. Kitts (NA-104) from **February 27th to March 6th**. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to [K1ZN](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0308)

V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS. Once again John, W5JON will be active as **V47JA** from St. Kitts (NA-104) on **February 17th-27th**. He will operate SSB and FT8 on the HF bands and 6 meters. QSL via LoTW, or direct only to [W5JON](#).

-[425DXN # 1710 February 10, 2024] (0216-0301)

V5, NAMIBIA. Frank, DL7ATA is QRV as **V5/DL7ATA** **until March 23rd**. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB in his evening hours. QSL to DL7ATA.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 6 February 8, 2024] (0209-0315)

VE, CANADA. Members of the Newfoundland-based Grassroots Amateur Radio Club (VO1GRC) will be active as **VO1TAP** from **February 18th to March 18th**. The callsign commemorates the anniversary of the USS "Truxtun" and USS "Pollux" naval disaster that occurred off the coast of Newfoundland on February 18, 1942. See <https://grassrootsarc.weebly.com/vo1tap.html> for more information. QSL via LoTW and eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1712 February 24, 2024] (0223-0322)

VK, AUSTRALIA. Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Islands On The Air program, special event callsign **VI6ØIOTA** will be in use across Australia **during 2024**: "whenever VI6ØIOTA is heard on the air", the organizers say, "it will be from one of the VK IOTA entities", including the main islands of Australia (OC-001) and Tasmania (OC-007). Andrey, VK5MAV is using the callsign during part of his current VK5MAV/4 activity from Magnetic Island (OC-171), and team VK5FIL will also operate VI6ØIOTA during part of their **April 14th-21st expedition** to Flinders Island (OC-261). QSOs will be made available for ClubLog and LoTW Matching on the IOTA website; traditional QSLs via [MØOXO's OQRS](#). Updates and information about the certificates that will be available for working VI6ØIOTA will be posted to <https://www.qrz.com/db/VI6ØIOTA>.

-[425DXN # 1710 February 10, 2024] (0209-0301)

VU, INDIA. A large team will be active as **AU2RS** from Nachugunta Island (AS- 199) on **February 23rd-25th**. This IOTA group was activated for the first and only time by AT2RS back in December 2008. Plans are to operate SSB, CW and FT8 on 160-6 meters and via satellite QO-100 with five stations. See <https://www.vu2rs.com/AU2RS/> for more information. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1708 January 27, 2024] (0223-0301)

YO, ROMANIA. Celebrating the 95th anniversary of the first amateur radio association in Romania's Arad County, special callsigns **YR95AR, YR95CC, YR95CH, YR95IN, YR95LI, YR95PE** and **YR95SE** will be active from **February 16th until May 31st**. The event is being organized by C.S. Radioclub Admira (YO2KBQ), the successor of the club that was established almost a century ago. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/YR95AR> for more information.

-[425DXN # 1711 February 17, 2024] (0216-0322)

Z3, NORTH MACEDONIA. AI, DJØLZ will be QRV as **Z36T** from Skopje from **February 25th to March 25th**. QSL direct to [DJØLZ](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0329)

ZC4, UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS. Martin, MWØBRO is QRV as **ZC4GW** **during 2024**. QSL to [MWØBRO](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 4 January 25, 2024] (0126-0301)

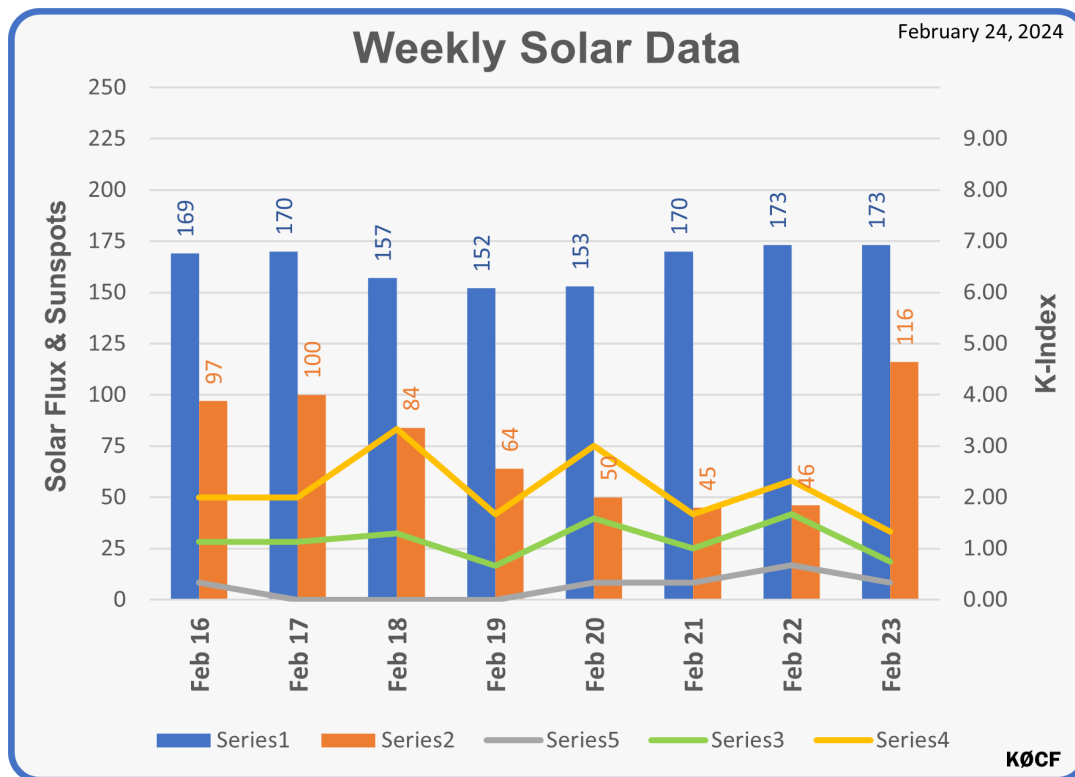
ZF, CAYMAN IS. Bruce, KØBJ, will be active from Cayman Brac Island (NA-016) from **February 20th to 27th** as **ZF2VE**. QSL via [KØBJ](#).

-[DXNL # 2394 February 21, 2024] (0223-0301)

ZF, CAYMAN IS. Gerry, W1VE is QRV as **ZF2VE** from Cayman Brac Island (NA-016) **until February 27th**. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0301)

Propagation (Updated daily)



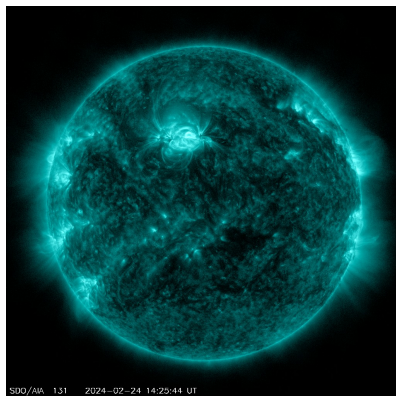
The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (K-Idx) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.



Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!

Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Friday, February 16th through yesterday, February 23rd.

The average solar flux was 164, down 23 points from the previous week, with a weekly

high of 173 on Friday, February 23rd, following a low of 152 on February 19th.

The average sunspot count was 72, down by 62 from last week, peaking at 116 on Friday, February 23rd after a weekly low of 45 on February 21st.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 2.2 with a maximum of 3.3 on Sunday, February 18th, resulting in generally quiet geomagnetic conditions.

Solar flare activity since February 16th has been high with 14 major flares, the largest of which was a major X 6.3 event on Thursday, February 22nd.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Friday, February 16th through 1404 UTC, February 24th.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Feb 24	1118	M 3.6
2	Feb 24	1057	M 2.2
3	Feb 24	0634	M 4.5
4	Feb 23	1747	M 2.6
5	Feb 23	1553	M 1.5
6	Feb 23	1328	M 1.0
7	Feb 22	2234	X 6.3
8	Feb 22	2046	M 4.8
9	Feb 22	0632	X 1.7
10	Feb 22	0014	M 1.5
11	Feb 21	2307	X 1.8
12	Feb 16	2209	M 3.0
13	Feb 16	0653	X 2.5
14	Feb 16	0251	M 1.5

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Feb 24	60%	30%	175
Feb 25	60%	30%	175
Feb 26	60%	30%	175

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on February 19, 2024).

Date	Flux	Kp
Feb 24	172	2
Feb 25	172	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Feb 28	165	2
Feb 29	155	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Mar 3	170	2
Mar 4	170	2

Feb 26	165	3
Feb 27	165	3

Mar 1	160	2
Mar 2	165	2

Mar 5	170	2
Mar 6	170	2

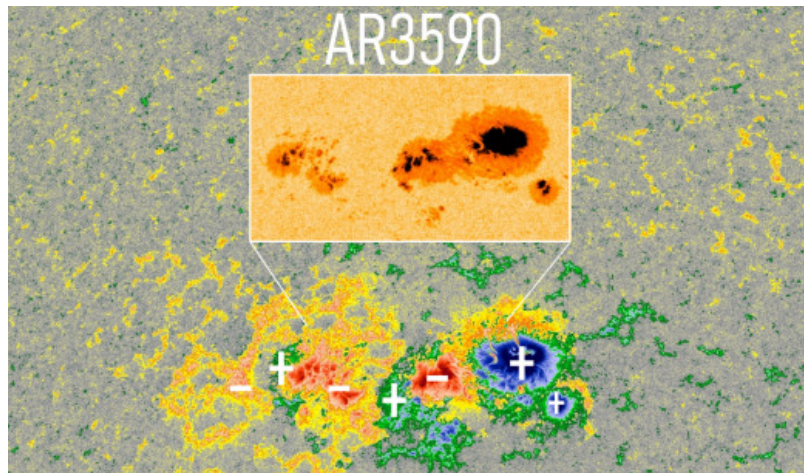
Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 234 on January 15, 2023.

Sunspots: 227 on July 11, 2023.

What Makes This Sunspot so Dangerous?

Don't be surprised if there's another X-flare this weekend. Giant sunspot AR3590 is directly facing Earth, and it has an unstable magnetic field that harbors energy for the strongest explosions. This magnetic map from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory shows what makes the sunspot so dangerous:



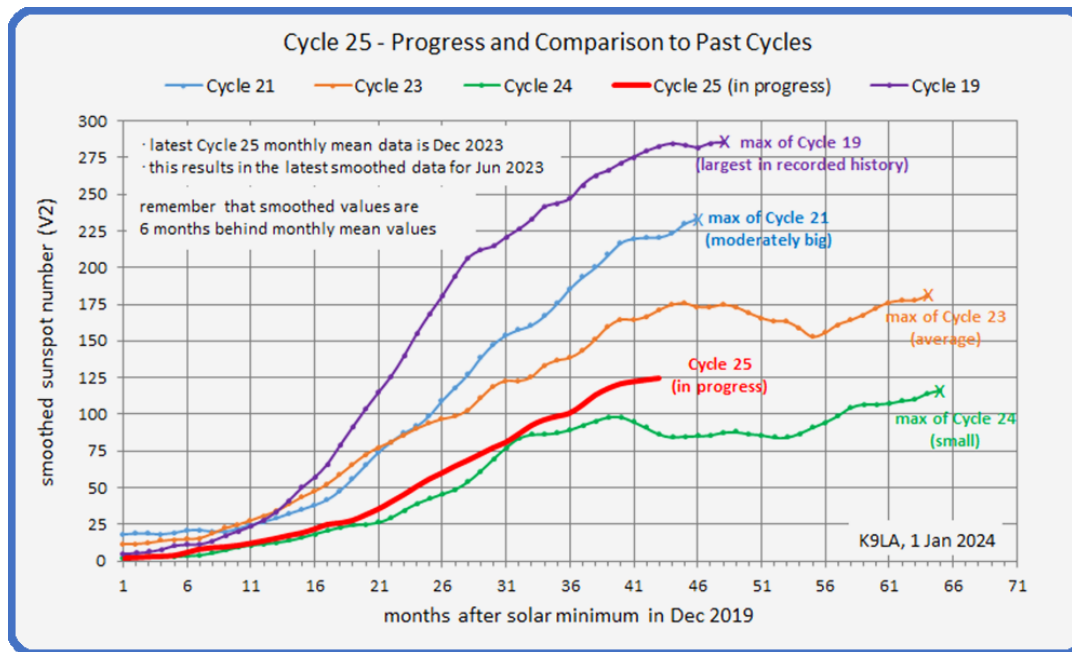
Most sunspots have a simple magnetic field with only two poles: + (plus) and - (minus). Sunspot AR3590 is more like a layer cake with a whole stack of pluses and minuses. Opposite magnetic polarities pressed together in this way can lead to explosive magnetic reconnection--the mechanism behind solar flares. Indeed, only two days ago AR3590 unleashed the strongest solar flare of Solar Cycle 25 (X6.3).

NOAA forecasters say there is a 30% chance of another X-flare this weekend. If it happens, the flare will be geoeffective because the sunspot is directly facing Earth. Stay tuned.

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Cycle 25 vs. Past Cycles

Propagation guru Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA has created this graph showing Cycle 25 progress as compared to a few past Solar Cycles. It is very interesting to see that Cycle 25 is a very modest iteration, providing some good but not great propagation on the HF bands.



Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.net/>

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters.

However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000Z is Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	Feb 23	2200Z	Feb 25	2159Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, RTTY	Feb 24	1800Z	Feb 25	0600Z	Rules
North Carolina QSO Party	Feb 25	1500Z	Feb 26	0100Z	Rules
Worldwide Patagonia DX Contest	Feb 25	0000Z	Feb 25	2359Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	Mar 2	0000Z	Mar 3	2400Z	Rules
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	Mar 2	1800Z	Mar 3	1359Z	Rules
YB DX RTTY Contest	Mar 9	0000Z	Mar 9	2359Z	Rules
Oklahoma QSO Party	Mar 9	1400Z	Mar 10	2100Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Mar 9	1500Z	Mar 10	1500Z	Rules
Idaho QSO Party	Mar 9	1900Z	Mar 10	1900Z	Rules
North American Sprint, RTTY	Mar 10	0000Z	Mar 10	0359Z	Rules
Wisconsin QSO Party	Mar 10	1800Z	Mar 11	0100Z	Rules
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	Mar 16	0200Z	Mar 18	0200Z	Rules
Russian DX Contest	Mar 16	1200Z	Mar 17	1200Z	Rules
North American SSB Sprint Contest	Mar 24	0000Z	Mar 24	0400Z	Rules
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	Mar 30	0000Z	Mar 31	2400Z	Rules
Louisiana QSO Party	Apr 6	1400Z	Apr 7	0200Z	Rules
SP DX Contest	Apr 6	1500Z	Apr 7	1500Z	Rules
JIDX CW Contest	Apr 13	0700Z	Apr 14	1300Z	Rules
New Mexico QSO Party	Apr 13	1400Z	Apr 14	0200Z	Rules
Georgia QSO Party	Apr 13	1800Z	Apr 14	2359Z	Rules

Holyland DX Contest	Apr 19	2100Z	Apr 20	2100Z	Rules
YU DX Contest	Apr 20	0700Z	Apr 21	0659Z	Rules
CQMM DX Contest	Apr 20	0900Z	Apr 21	2359Z	Rules
Michigan QSO Party	Apr 20	1600Z	Apr 21	0400Z	Rules
Ontario QSO Party	Apr 20	1800Z	Apr 21	1800Z	Rules
ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	Apr 21	1800Z	Apr 21	2359Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	Apr 27	0001Z	Apr 28	2359Z	Rules
SP DX RTTY Contest	Apr 27	1200Z	Apr 28	1200Z	Rules
Helvetia Contest	Apr 27	1300Z	Apr 28	1259Z	Rules
Florida QSO Party	Apr 27	1600Z	Apr 28	2159Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	May 4	0001Z	May 5	2359Z	Rules
7th Call Area QSO Party	May 4	1300Z	May 5	0700Z	Rules
Indiana QSO Party	May 4	1600Z	May 5	0400Z	Rules
Delaware QSO Party	May 4	1700Z	May 5	2359Z	Rules
New England QSO Party	May 4	2000Z	May 5	2400Z	Rules
CQ-M International DX Contest	May 11	1200Z	May 12	1159Z	Rules
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	May 18	1200Z	May 19	1200Z	Rules
Arkansas QSO Party	May 18	1400Z	May 19	0200Z	Rules
Baltic Contest	May 18	2100Z	May 19	0200Z	Rules
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	May 25	0000Z	May 26	2400Z	Rules

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)]